

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, September 7. 1706.

THE Reader will bear with the following Interruption of Story, when he judges of the Occasion, and therefore I make no other Apology.

MISCELLANEA.

SIR,

At the Beginning of every Bartholomew-Eve the following Order is published, which were it put in Execution, would quite overthrow the mischievous Doings in the said Fair. Now we earnestly desire, you will give us your Answer to these Questions.

1. Has the Mayor and Aldermen Power to see this Order put in Execution?

2. If they have, who must answer for the Neglect?

3. Is it not a Fault upon themselves to make such an Order, and never take any Care to see it executed?

There are some more Questions of this Nature, which I may trouble you with hereafter; but for the present, I entreat you to reprint the Order, and then informing the World, that not one Step is taken to put it in Execution; bestow your impartial Opinion in the Case, which will oblige,

Your humble Servant,

The

The Order is as follows.

THE Right Honourable the Lord Mayor seriously considering, That notwithstanding the great Care which hath been taken by his Predecessors, for Prevention of Disorders, Tumults and Riots in *Bartolomew Fair*, and Places adjacent, especially in the Cloysters and other Passages of the Hospitals of *Christ* and *St. Bartolomew*, whereby the Peace is frequently broken, the Safety and Quiet of each of the said Hospitals endangered and disturbed, and the Inhabitants in or near *Smithfield* very much disquieted: To the Intent therefore that the Publick Peace may not be broken in the time of the said Fair, His Lordship, as well out of a hearty Desire to preserve the same, as also to do what in him lies to promote a Reformation of Manners, and put a stop to the deplorable Increase of Prophaneness and Debauchery; Doth, by and with the Advice of his Brethren the Aldermen, straitly charge and command all Persons concern'd in the said Fair, that they do not lett or sett any Ground, within the Limits thereof, for the Erection of any Booths, Sheds or Stalls, to any Person or Persons that shall use or employ the same (contrary to Law) for *Interludes*, *Stage-Plays*, *Comedies*, *Gaming-places*, *Musick-meetings*, or other Occasions or Opportunities for inticing or assembling idle, loose, and debauch'd Persons together, under pretence of innocent Diversion and Recreation; And the several Inhabitants in or near the said Fair are also required not to permit or suffer any such illegal Games, *Interludes*, *Rafflings*, or *Musick-meetings* to be used or kept within their Houses or Shops; but that all Erections to be prepar'd, had, and made against and for the said Fair, shall be used and employed for Trade and Commerce only, according to the good Intents and Purposes designed in the granting and establishing thereof. And that the Premises may be fully observed and obeyed, It is further ordered, That the City Marshalls and Officers, and all Constables and Ministers of Justice within this City and Liberties thereof, do take care, that no Persons keeping Tippling-houses, or other pub-

lick Places of Entertainment in or near the said Fair, or within the Liberties of this City, do permit any Person or Persons to stay in their respective Houses, or Places of publick Resort, after Ten of the Clock at Night. And in Case any House-keeper, Shop-keeper or Booth-keeper shall entertain any Company, or any such Company shall refuse to depart such Places after that Hour, in Defiance of the known Laws of this Realm, and Contempt of this Order: That then they do apprehend all such Offenders, and bring them before the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, or some other of Her Majesties Justices of the Peace for this City and Liberties, that they may be prosecuted at Law for their so doing, &c. —

'Tis most certain, that notwithstanding this Order, Booths for *Interludes*, *Stage-plays*, *Comedies*, *Gaming-places*, *Musick-meetings*, &c. are constantly erected, and not disturb'd; from whence I cannot but observe a few things.

Either my Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen have a Power to prevent their building these Booths, or they have not? If they have not, then is this one of the most ridiculous Pieces of mock Pageantry, that ever Magistracy was guilty of, and exposes them to the last Degree, a Jest upon the City, and a Banter upon Religion. "To talk of their hearty Desire to do what in them lies, when this, *what in them lies*, is nothing at all; for that no Power lies in them to prevent the thing, the Order condemns.

On the other hand, if they have a Power to do it, and acknowledging by their Order it ought to be done, then are they guilty of the most inconsistent Piece of Nonsense in Government that ever was known, putting a Jest upon both God and Man; first, to acknowledge the thing a Crime, secondly, assume a Command which presumes a Power to restrain it, and then as wholly negligent of their own Command, abandon the Care of the thing, and see no part of their Order executed.

Upon the whole, this I cannot but observe; that either the Court of Aldermen ought to suppress the Fair, I mean the Excesses there, or suppress the Order; for this

this does but expose their Authority to Ridicule and Contempt, harden and make bold the Stage-players, and other Promoters of Wickedness there !

In short, it makes the Order of my Lord Mayor more of a Stage-play, than the best Show in the Fair, and I cannot but wonder, his Lordship will suffer such a Jest of his Authority ; certainly he ought to suppress them, or never publish such an Order ; he ought to prevent the Proprietors letting the Ground to such Booths and Play-houses, or never command them in Print not to do it ; if he has no Power or Right to prevent it, his Order is a merry *Andrew*, a meer Puppet-show to *fear no body*, a piece of Jingle below a Magistrate, and a Dishonour to the City. If he has a Power to prevent them, since 'tis plain he does not — Where then is the Truth of those very good Expressions in the Order, *Viz. A hearty Desire to promote a Reformation of Manners, and doing what in him lies, to put a stop to the deplorable Increase of Profaneness and Debauchery.*

I forbear in Respect to his Lordship's Dignity, and to the Honour of the City to give this its full length of Animadversion — But when Magistrates, and Bodies Politick lay themselves open to such just Censure, who can restrain from speaking ; I am sorry there is so much room for Satyr in this Case.

AND now, honest Roger — A Word betwixt thee and I, concerning Peace making. Thou art a very honest Fellow, and so I hope is thy Master ; but he is so woundy touchy, and so willing to quarrel with a body, that let one give him the best Words in the World, there's no keeping the Peace with'n.

I spoke to him in a late Paper directly, now I think, I shall have fairer Quarter in talking to thee than to him — Prithee, Roger, go to him from me, and desire him to go to S—s, or G—s Coffee-house, and as he is by Profession an *Observer*, desire him but to sit still, and observe, when he and I differ ; who laughs, whose Jest we are, and who we please — On the other hand, bid him note, when we agree hand in hand with plain Argument, and yet plainer Demonstration to expose the Enemies of the Na-

tion's Tranquillity, who do pinch ? Who read and damn the Authors, and throw the paper in the Fire for Madness ?

Then, Roger, prithee ask him another Question, has not He, and I too, Enemies enough in the World to contend with, that are Enemies for the Cause of Peace and Union ? Have we not Subjects enough to treat on, without ruffling one another for Trifles ?

Then, Roger, I'll appeal to thee, if thy Master does well to call the late *Covenry* Paper an Attack upon him, and a falling out — When 'tis plain, we both mean the same thing, but will he not understand it ; I thought, I had said enough to invite him to Peace, but he is still pushing at a new Quarrel.

I had indeed design'd to say no more, but in his last Paper, he bids thee tell me, he waits for my good Law for Troops of Horse concerning themselves in Elections — And since that he ruffles me again upon that Head. Now, pray, Roger, desire thy Master seriously to look back upon the Paper, which I say, was esteem'd good Law, and find if he can, where I ever so much as suggested, that Troops of Horse or Military Power should in the least interpose in Elections.

If Towns or People under pretence of Elections take Arms and fight, it ceases to be an Election, and becomes a Tumult — And if he will dispute, let him prove ; that when an Election runs up into a Tumult, Battle and Blood, the Magistrates have no power to come and part them, but must let the People murder one another ; and if then they assault and subdue the Magistrates ; whether have not they a Right to call Troops of Horse, or any body else to their Assistance ?

Now, tell thy Master, Roger, I never said, that Troops of Horse had any thing to do in an Election, and I again declare they have not, but the Military Power may at all times assist the Magistrate to suppress a Tumult, when it is too strong for the Civil Power ; and for this, I presume, he will not put me to the trouble to search the Law Books ; I quoted Mr. Baron Price already, and all the Answer is, thy Master does